



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

Executive Offices • 433 South Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975 • (213) 738-2961

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF
A GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM
THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM
FOR THE SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
URBAN STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a competitive grant application to and acceptance of grant funds from the California State Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Grant Program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the South Coast Botanic Garden Urban Stream Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Adopt a resolution to complete the submission process for a competitive grant application to the California State Department of Water Resources and accept grant funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the California State Urban Stream Restoration Grant Program for the South Coast Botanic Garden Urban Stream Restoration Project at South Coast Botanic Garden.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles, to accept the grant, conduct all negotiations, and execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, contracts, agreements, amendments,

deed restrictions, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the South Coast Botanic Garden Urban Stream Restoration Project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to complete the grant submission process for a competitive grant application to the California State Department of Water Resources (State), and allow the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the California State Urban Stream Restoration Grant Program for the proposed South Coast Botanic Garden Urban Stream Restoration Project (Project) at South Coast Botanic Garden as required by the State. The State requires an adopted resolution to approve the grant application submission and acceptance from the applicant's governing Board.

The South Coast Botanic Garden Urban Stream is located at 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard in the Palos Verdes Peninsula. In an effort to restore the stream and adjacent habitat to a more natural state, the proposed Project will include survey of the project area, restoration of the creek channel, addition of rock outcroppings and weirs to the stream, installation of engineered stabilization for the bank at the south end of the stream, improvement of trails on both sides of the stream, installation of a pedestrian bridge, installation of an accessible trail on the southeast end of the stream, and planting of native plants.

The total project cost is \$1,272,300. The total grant amount is \$1,000,000, which will be supplemented with matching funds and in-kind labor, in the amount of \$272,300, provided by the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department).

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2) by maximizing the effectiveness of strong fiscal management to provide enriched services and effectively plan and respond to environmental challenges.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will not result in any fiscal impact to the County. The total project cost is \$1,272,300. The total grant amount is \$1,000,000. Matching funds and in-kind labor in the amount of \$272,300 is being provided by the Foundation and the Department.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

The recommended actions allow the Department to propose a stream restoration project for grant funding. Additional operating costs may materialize from the Project provisions, but will be dependent on approval and award of the grant. The Department will re-evaluate the proposed Project and identify any additional costs upon acceptance of grant funds, and address them in its New Facilities request.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

An adopted resolution is required by the State to authorize the submission of a grant application and

acceptance of the grant by the applicant's governing Board. A draft resolution at the time of application submission is acceptable. In the event of a grant award, the resolution to accept the grant is required prior to grant reimbursement processing.

County Counsel has reviewed this letter and approved the resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project, which consists of survey of the project area, restoration of the creek channel, addition of rock outcroppings and weirs to the stream, installation of engineered stabilization for the bank at the south end of the stream, improvement of trails on both sides of the stream, installation of a pedestrian bridge, installation of an accessible trail on the southeast end of the stream, and planting of native plants, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(i), 15303(e), 15304(a), 15306 and 15333(d)(2)(3)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(k), 3(b), 4(a) and 6 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves the maintenance of existing public structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use; the construction of small new facilities; minor alterations in the condition of land; data collection and resource evaluation; and maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

On January 13, 2015, the Department filed a Notice of Exemption with the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk in accordance with Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed actions will have no impact on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

Please forward one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division; and two adopted copies to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Should you have any questions, please contact Imee Perius at (213) 738-2972 or iperius@parks.lacounty.gov, Francine Choi at (213) 368-5838 or fchoi@parks.lacounty.gov, Kasey Dizon at (213) 738-2986 or kdizon@parks.lacounty.gov, or Kaye Michelson at (213) 738-2955 or kmichelson@parks.lacounty.gov.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

3/17/2015

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JW:FPFC:ip

Enclosures

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ENDORING THE APPLICATION FOR AN URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION
PROGRAM GRANT AND DETERMINING APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT DOCUMENT, CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING GRANT IF OFFERED, AND
DESIGNATING PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE, CONTRACT MANAGER AND
FISCAL AGENT**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources, FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office, Urban Streams Restoration Program has announced the availability of funds for grants; and

WHEREAS, said grants are intended to help solve flooding and erosion problems in a way that provides environmental enhancement; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed to sponsor a grant application with the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, we have concluded the project proposed for funding with grants would be environmentally beneficial and:

a) categorically exempt from requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under one or more of the following exemptions per sections 15300-15333 of the CEQA Guidelines: 15301(i); 15304(a); 15333(d)(2)(3)(5); 15303(e); 15306.

WHEREAS, we consider the prospects of receiving a grant to be reasonably likely;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approve the joint application with the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Inc., for an Urban Streams Restoration Program grant at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

If offered such a grant, we authorize the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to accept and sign any contract for administration of the grant funds, and the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to act as Project Manager for the project. We further hereby delegate authority to the Director, or his designee, to manage the Agreement including the submission of invoices, and to delegate authority to others to provide management and support services required for performance of the work and administration of the Agreement.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the ____ day of _____, 2015, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

PATRICK OGAWA, Acting Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARK J. SALADINO
County Counsel

By Christina A. Salseda
Christina A. Salseda
Principal Deputy County Counsel